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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Czechoslovakia	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Branka Ironworks at Branka near Opava: Production of Military Materiel	DATE DISTR.	18 March 1957 25X1
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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. The Branka Ironworks (Branecke zelezarny), National Enterprise, at Branka (N 49-53, E 17-53) formerly manufactured iron stoves and locks; it employed about 600 workers. In 1954 the production was stopped and the plant was entirely reconstructed. Old equipment was dismantled and taken away; three reconstructed production halls were equipped with new automatic machinery. The reconstruction was finished in 1955. There was a large-scale recruitment of labor, and at the end of 1955, when the production was fully resumed again, the number of employees allegedly reached 2,000, of whom 35 percent were women.
2. The plant works in three shifts. It manufactures steel cases for artillery grenades, steel cases for rocket launcher ammunition, and some steel spare parts for rocket launchers and artillery pieces. The products are taken away in secured railroad boxcars destined for Brno. From the former manufacture only the production of locks was retained. The plant is under military control, although the officers permanently assigned to the plant wear civilian clothes; officers in uniforms often visit and inspect the plant.
3. Electric current for the Branka Iron works is supplied by the newly built Krusperk electric power plant. 25X1
4. Ing. Zak (fnu) is the manager of the Branka Ironworks.

Legend for the sketch

1. Two newly built (in 1954) buildings at the plant entrance. The buildings contain: wash rooms, cloak rooms, infirmary and social welfare offices.
2. Three-story administrative building, about 40 x 12 meters; houses the plant administrative offices.
3. Two-storied building adjacent to the plant railroad spur, about 35x10 meters. The receiving and shipping sections are located in the building. The plant spur

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)

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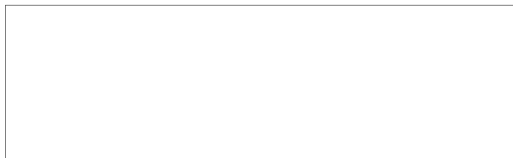
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- branches off the railroad line between Hradec and Opava.
4. Three production halls, each about 60 x 30 meters large.

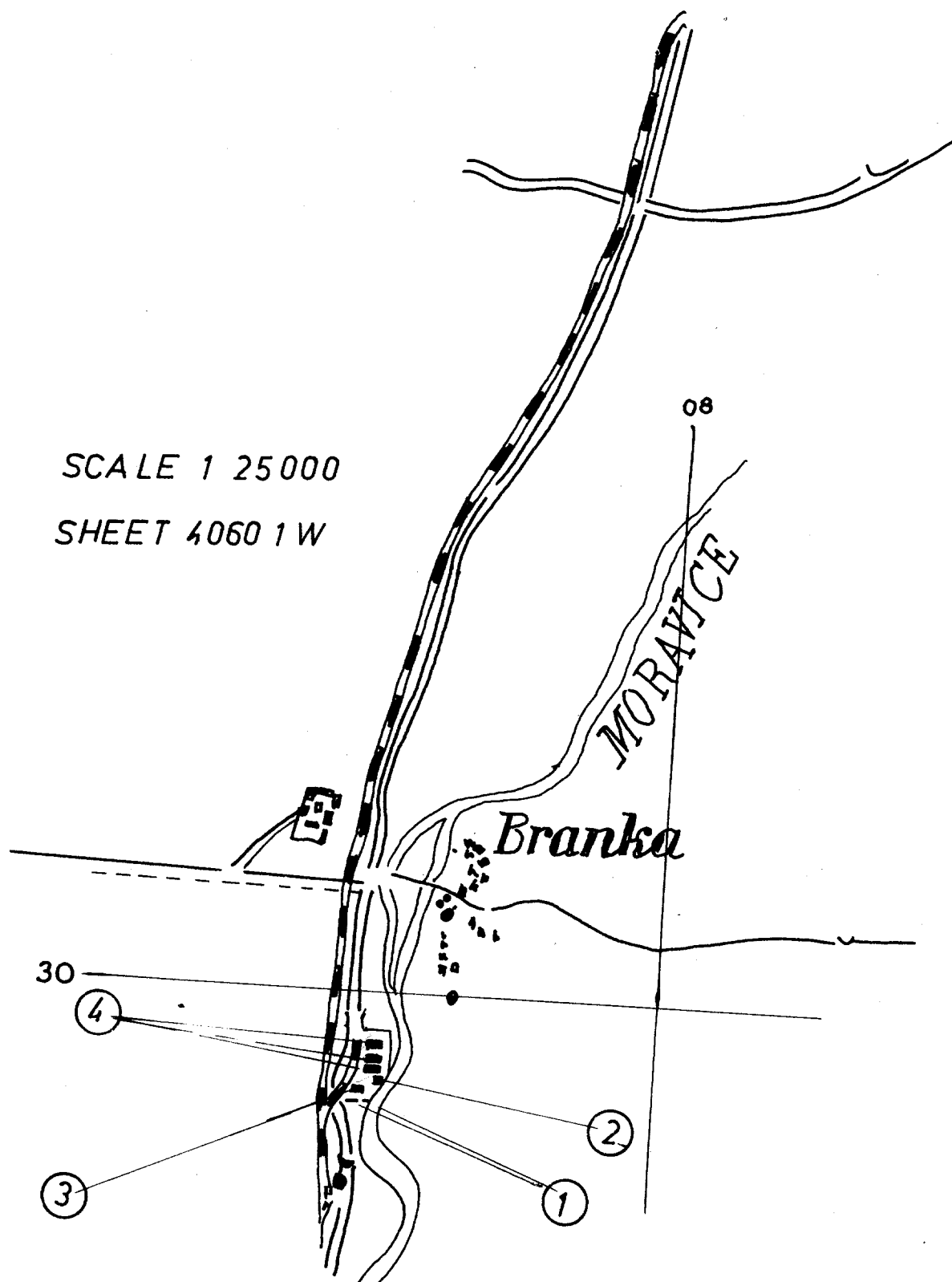
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